

communicating with other contacts. For the contacts user 38 will communicate with directly, user 38 could also request that an alert be attached only to a certain number of transactions (e.g., one, two, etc.) after a message has been left. This avoids the user 38 having to receive numerous unnecessary alerts for a message already retrieved.

The paragraph spanning page 11, line 17 to page 12, line 9:

In the event sender 36 leaves the message at the message center 44, user 38 could contact message center 44 and retrieve the message by providing his/her unique identifier. This is accomplished via message transmission system 34, which is similar to message reception system 26 and can be any combination of hardware, software, and/or personnel. If message transmission system 34 is automated, user 38 could be prompted to enter his/her unique identifier (e.g., PIN) using touch tones to retrieve the message (e.g., hear the recorded message, or be connected to a live person who will read the message). Once user 38 has retrieved the message, attachment system 32 will cease attaching alerts. Optionally, message transmission system 34 could also send a confirmation of retrieval to sender 36. This can be either accomplished by direct live contact by message center 44, or by electronic means (e.g., an electronic mail message similar to a read receipt). In either event, the confirmation of retrieval could be made standard for all messages, or could be on the basis of request by sender 36 in exchange for a fee.
